



Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments

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March 30, 2022

Senator John Fonfara
Representative Sean Scanlon
Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee
Legislative Office Building Room 3700
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: S.B. 12

Dear Co-Chairs Fonfara and Scanlon,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer RiverCOG's **strong support** for Sections 9, 10 and 11 of S.B. 12 AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT MATCHING FUNDS AND EXTENDING THE TIME PERIOD FOR DISTRIBUTING GRANTS FOR CERTAIN LAW ENFORCEMENT EQUIPMENT.

During the drafting phase of our 2022 Legislative Agenda, our member municipalities expressed concern and a desire for continued state support to comply with requirements outlined in 2020's *An Act Concerning Police Accountability*. Specifically, our municipalities need assistance with the costly acquisition, management and storage of police dash and body cam footage and equipment. Storage of these digital recordings costs our municipalities thousands of dollars each year and we are still awaiting an affordable statewide solution. Until a statewide option is secured, we request that the state continue to offer options that help pay the high costs of these unfunded mandates. The language outlined in Sec. 9 would extend grant opportunities to recuperate costs and would be welcomed by all member communities. We encourage the passage of this section which would help free up revenue to be spent on other town services and improvements.

RiverCOG **strongly supports** Sec. 11 of S.B. 12. The parks, open spaces and recreational facilities located in the Lower Connecticut River Valley are considered some of our region's most valuable resources. Improvements to these facilities would be welcomed by new and current visitors, particularly any alterations that can further facilitate their enjoyment regardless of mobility status. Increasing funding to support renovations and improvements, specifically those designed to improve compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act is applauded. The increase of \$15 million in funding for projects of this nature is strongly supported. We commend the committee for recognizing the importance of these natural resources and urge the passage of this language.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer our support and welcome any questions.

Sincerely,

Samuel S. Gold, AICP
Executive Director

RiverCOG